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International Narcotics Situation Report

August 1992

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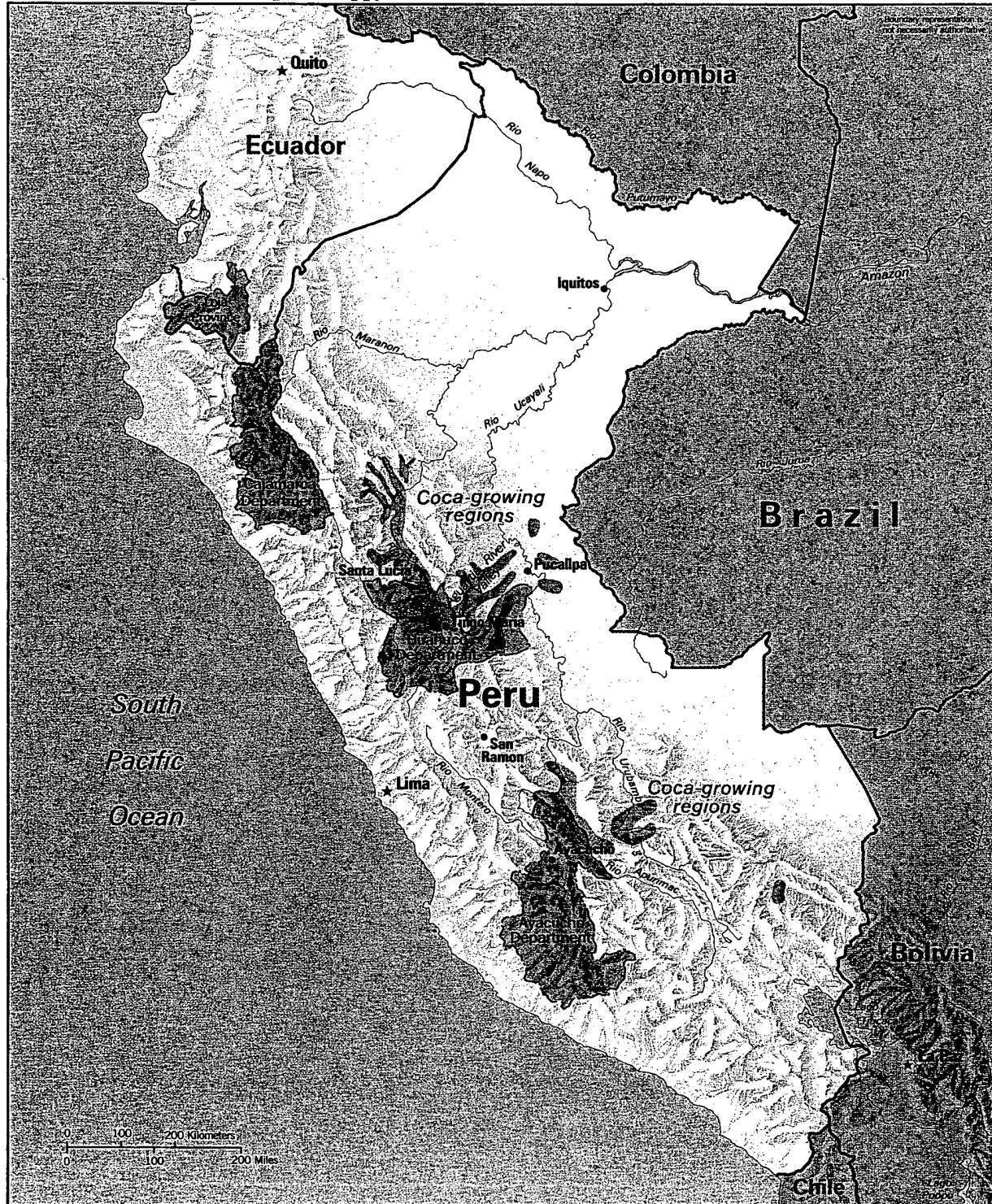
**International Narcotics
Situation Report**

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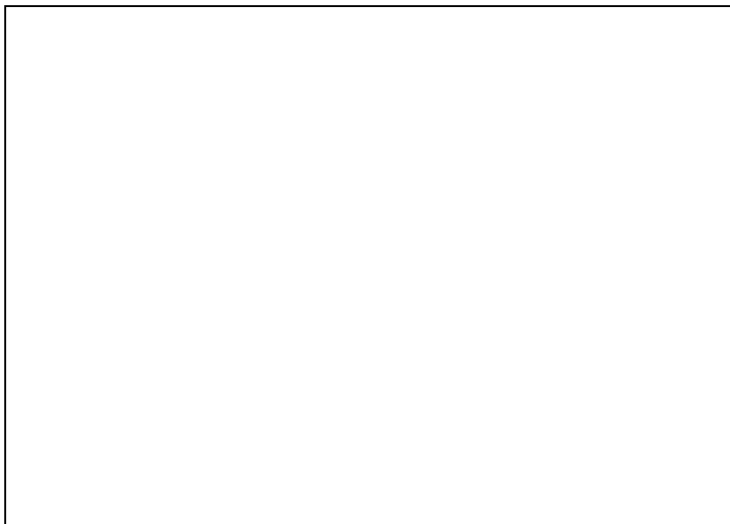
Peru-Ecuador: Suspected Opium Poppy Cultivation



**Peru-Ecuador: Emerging Opium
Cultivation and Processing**

The profitability of heroin and, more recently, Colombia's increasing enforcement operations are encouraging commercial poppy cultivation and opium processing in Peru and Ecuador. Cali traffickers may have moved some of their opium operations to Peru or Ecuador to evade antidrug efforts focused on poppy cultivation in Colombia, much as they did with cocaine operations after Colombia's 1989 crackdown. Peruvian and Ecuadorian trafficking families, meanwhile, probably are eager to assist the Colombians in developing opium production, and we believe that it is only a matter of time before poppy cultivation becomes more significant, particularly in Peru.

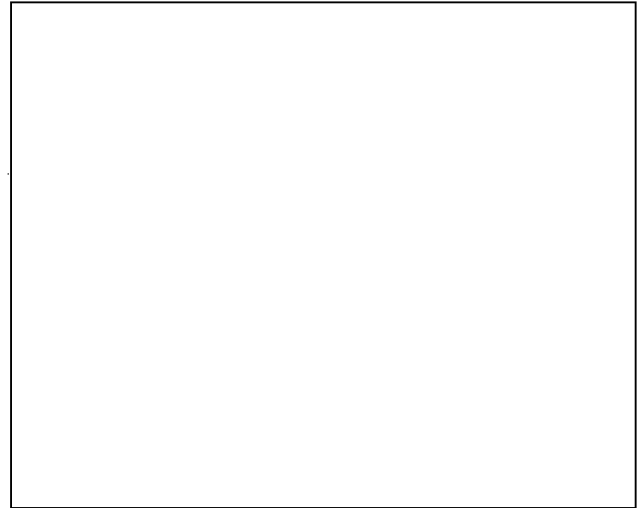
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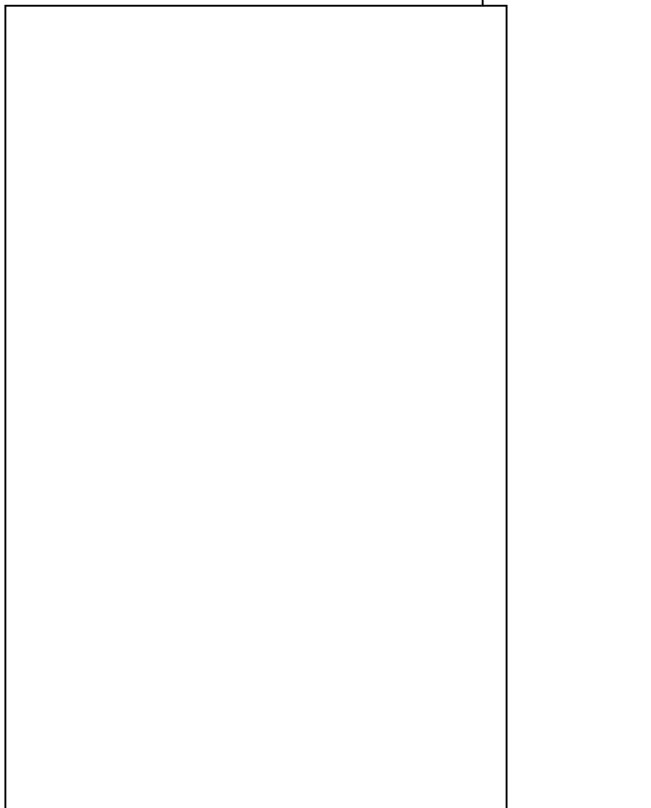
Peru Steps Up Antidrug Activity

Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori has increased efforts to curb trafficking, probably with an eye toward tempering US criticism of his April palace coup. The government has issued decrees aimed at limiting the drug trade and has ordered the security forces to be more supportive of antidrug operations. The campaign focuses on exerting control over several airstrips used by traffickers, long a top concern of US policymakers.



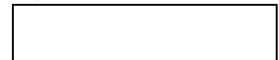
Fujimori's Record

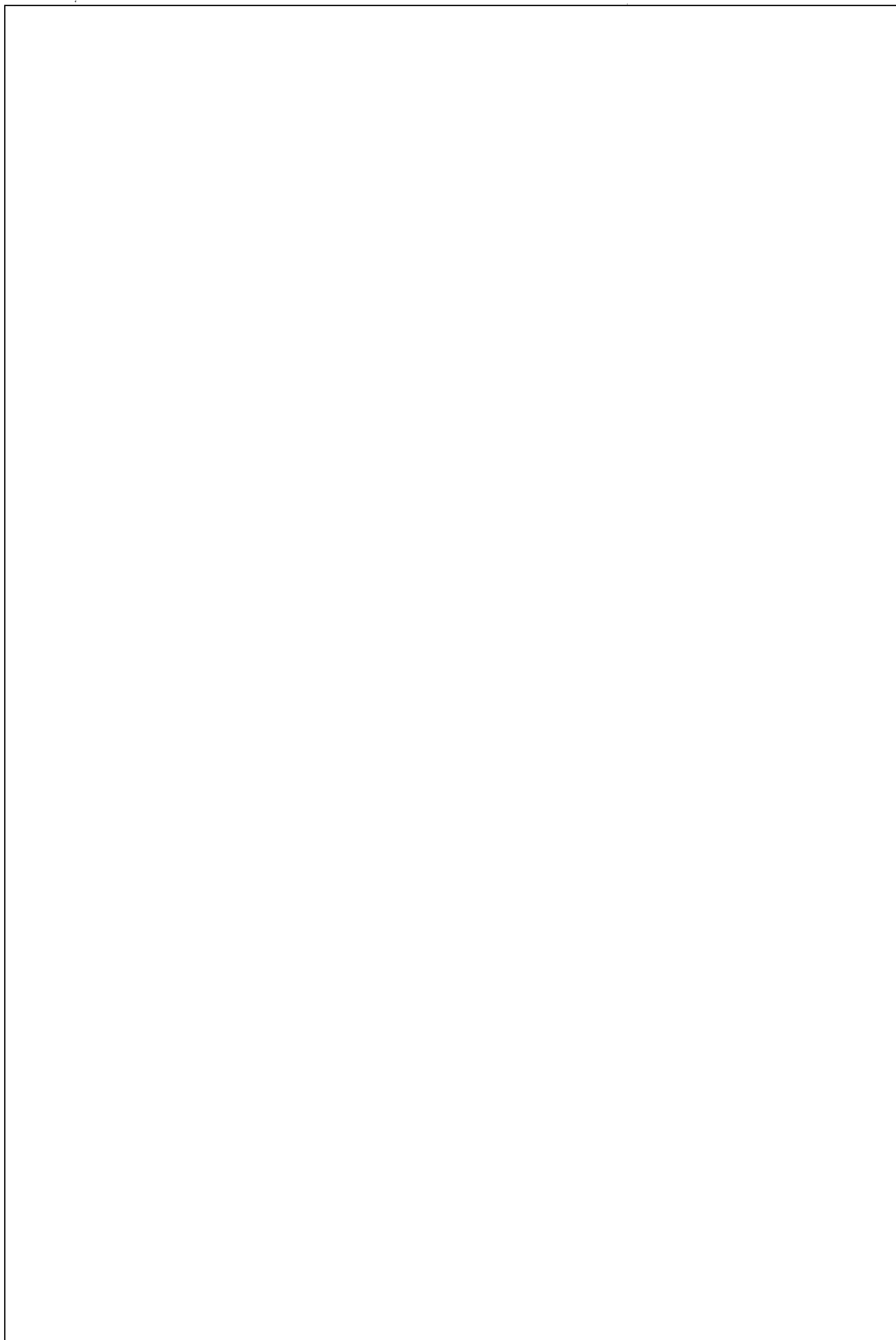
The Fujimori administration has made a greater effort than its predecessor to address US antidrug concerns, though it remains preoccupied with Peru's economic crisis and insurgent violence.

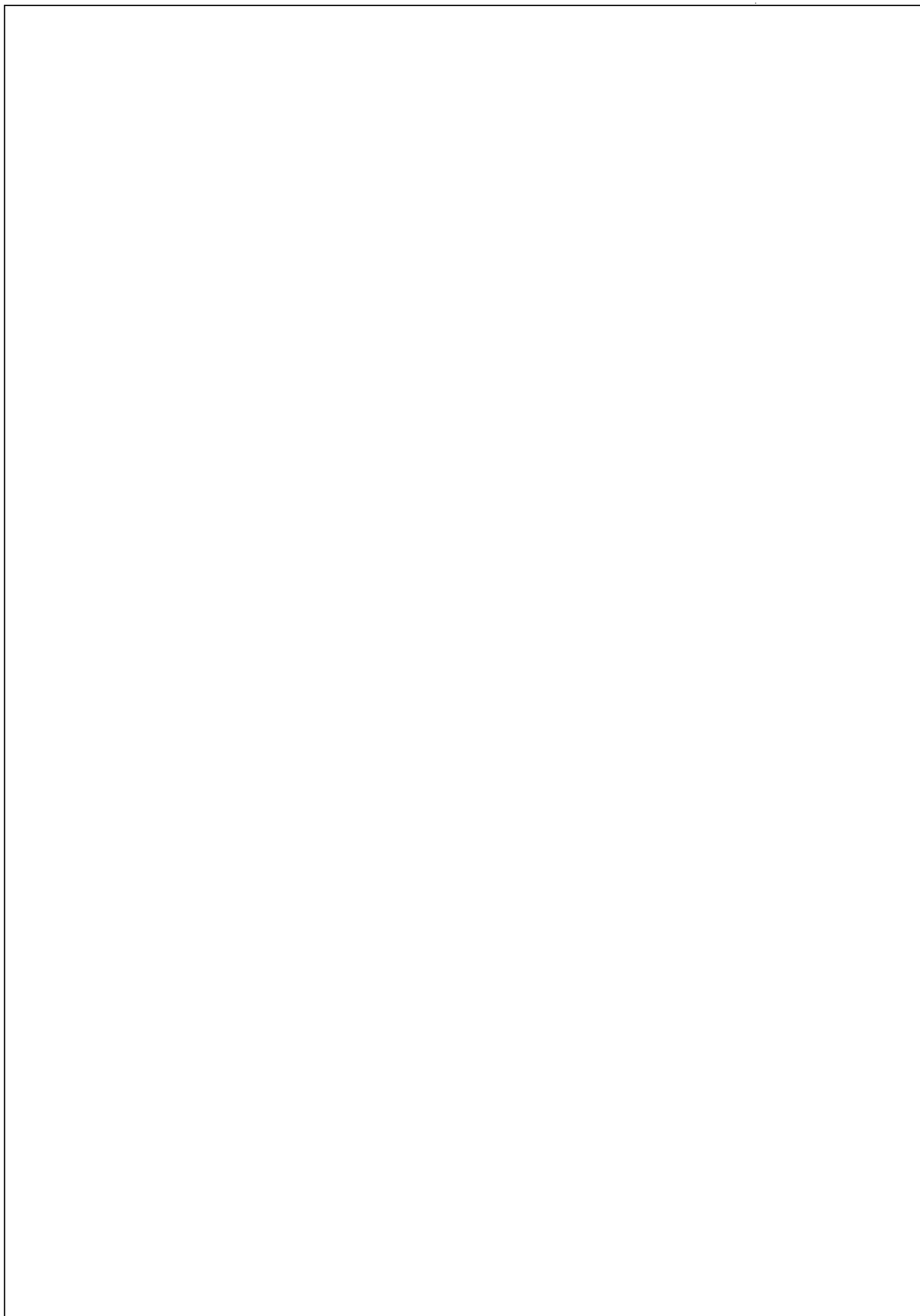


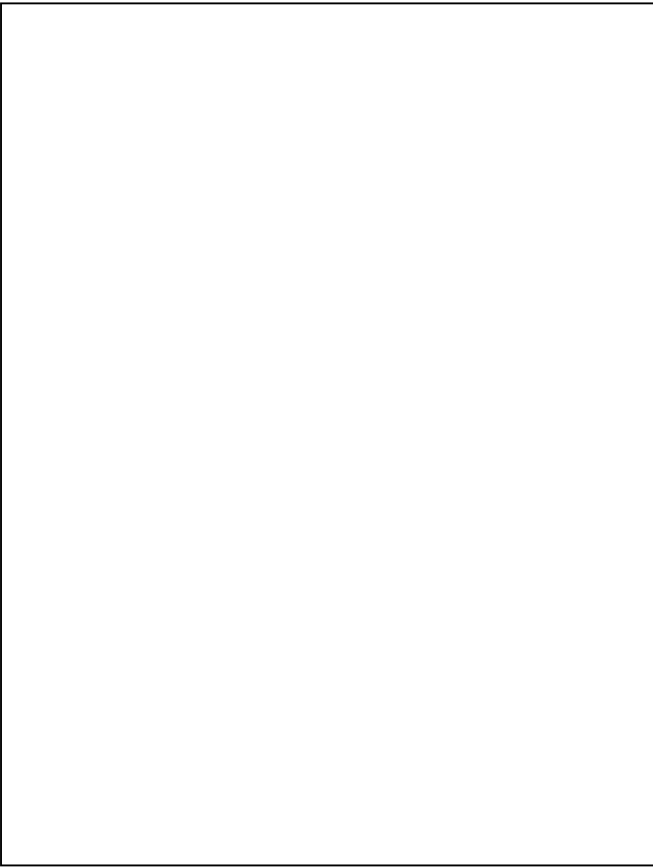
New Antidrug Initiatives

Since the coup, Fujimori has issued several decrees aimed at curtailing the drug trade in Peru and has ordered the military to increase counternarcotics support. Fujimori directed the Air Force to take control of municipal airfields in drug-producing areas, to destroy clandestine airstrips, and to intercept suspect aircraft. To combat corruption, he issued a decree requiring military and police officers in drug regions to disclose their property and income at the beginning and end of their tours. Another decree increased penalties for money laundering and other drug-related offenses.

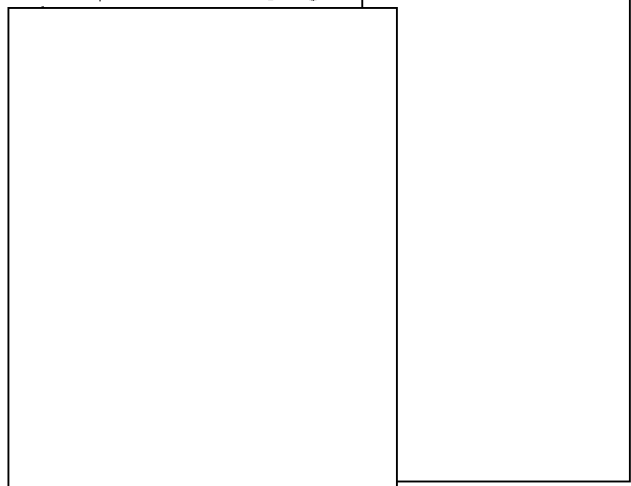
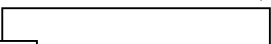








We believe a successful airfield denial program would result in significant constriction of drug flights only if coupled with effective air interdiction and a far-reaching anticorruption campaign. Air interdiction will remain difficult because the Air Force lacks the aircraft, pilot training, radars, and other assets to track and intercept drug flights.



Assessment

The airfield control effort is an important step in curtailing drug flights and probably will increase pressure on traffickers. As the municipal airports are less available—at least during the day—traffickers will turn more frequently to remote airstrips, which are generally shorter, more dangerous, and less convenient to laboratories, storage, and other support facilities. To evade the Air Force presence, pilots are likely to fly more often at night, increasing somewhat the risk of crashes.

